

Claims

[c1] 1. A personal portal in a data communications network that comprises network entities, the personal portal being associated with a user and comprising:
- a user profile; and
- at least one context profile.

[c2] 2. The personal portal of claim 1, wherein the user profile comprises a private part that is accessible only to the user.

[c3] 3. The personal portal of claim 1, wherein the user profile comprises a public part that is accessible by at least one other network entity.

[c4] 4. The personal portal of claim 1, wherein the at least one context profile comprises personal information associated with the user.

[c5] 5. The personal portal of claim 1, wherein the at least one context profile comprises personal settings.

[c6] 6. The personal portal of claim 5, wherein the personal settings comprise information on how information is to be sent.

[c7] 7. The personal portal of claim 5, wherein the personal settings comprise information on how information is to be displayed.

[c8] 8. The personal portal of claim 1, wherein the at least one context profile comprises access policies associated with the user.

[c9] 9. The personal portal of claim 1, wherein the data communications network further comprises at least one site, and each context profile is related to a site.

[c10] 10. The personal portal of claim 9, wherein the context profile is stored within the site.

[c11] 11. The personal portal of claim 9, wherein the site comprises an access network and the context profile is available only within that access network.

[c12] 12. A method for updating profiles in a data communications network comprising a number of entities, among them a profile storage that stores

profiles and for each profile a list of all on-line entities that store the profile, the method comprising the steps of:

- updating the profile on an entity;
- sending the updated profile from the entity to the profile storage;
- storing the updated profile by the profile storage;
- retrieving by the profile storage a list of all on-line entities that store the profile; and
- sending the updated profile to each entity on the retrieved list.

[c13] 13. The method for updating profiles of claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

- sending from an entity that has gone on-line to the profile storage, a request for modifications done to profiles the entity stores; and
- sending from the profile storage to the entity that has gone on-line the requested profiles.

[c14] 14. A system for updating profiles in a data communications network comprising an entity that has updated a profile, the system comprising:

- a profile storage and a number of on-line entities, wherein
- the profile storage:
- stores profiles and for each profile a list of all on-line entities that store the profile;
- receives the updated profile from the entity;
- stores the updated profile;
- retrieves a list of all on-line entities that store the profile; and
- sends the updated profile to each entity on the retrieved list; and
- the on-line entities:
- store the received profile.

[c15] 15. The system for updating profiles of claim 14, the system further comprising an entity that has gone on-line that:

- sends a request for modifications done to profiles the entity stores; and
- stores received profiles; and
- the profile storage further:

- receives the request; and
- sends to the entity that has gone on-line the requested profiles.

[c16] 16. A profile storage in a data communications network that further comprises a number of entities that store at least part of a profile, the profile storage comprising a number of profiles and, for each profile, a list of entities that store the profile.